

Aboriginal Economic
Partnerships

Annual Results 2010/2011

Strengthening
Aboriginal
Participation
in the Economy

Alberta

Strengthening Aboriginal Participation in the Economy



I am pleased to present the fifth annual results report summarizing the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations' key initiatives supporting Aboriginal economic development in Alberta.

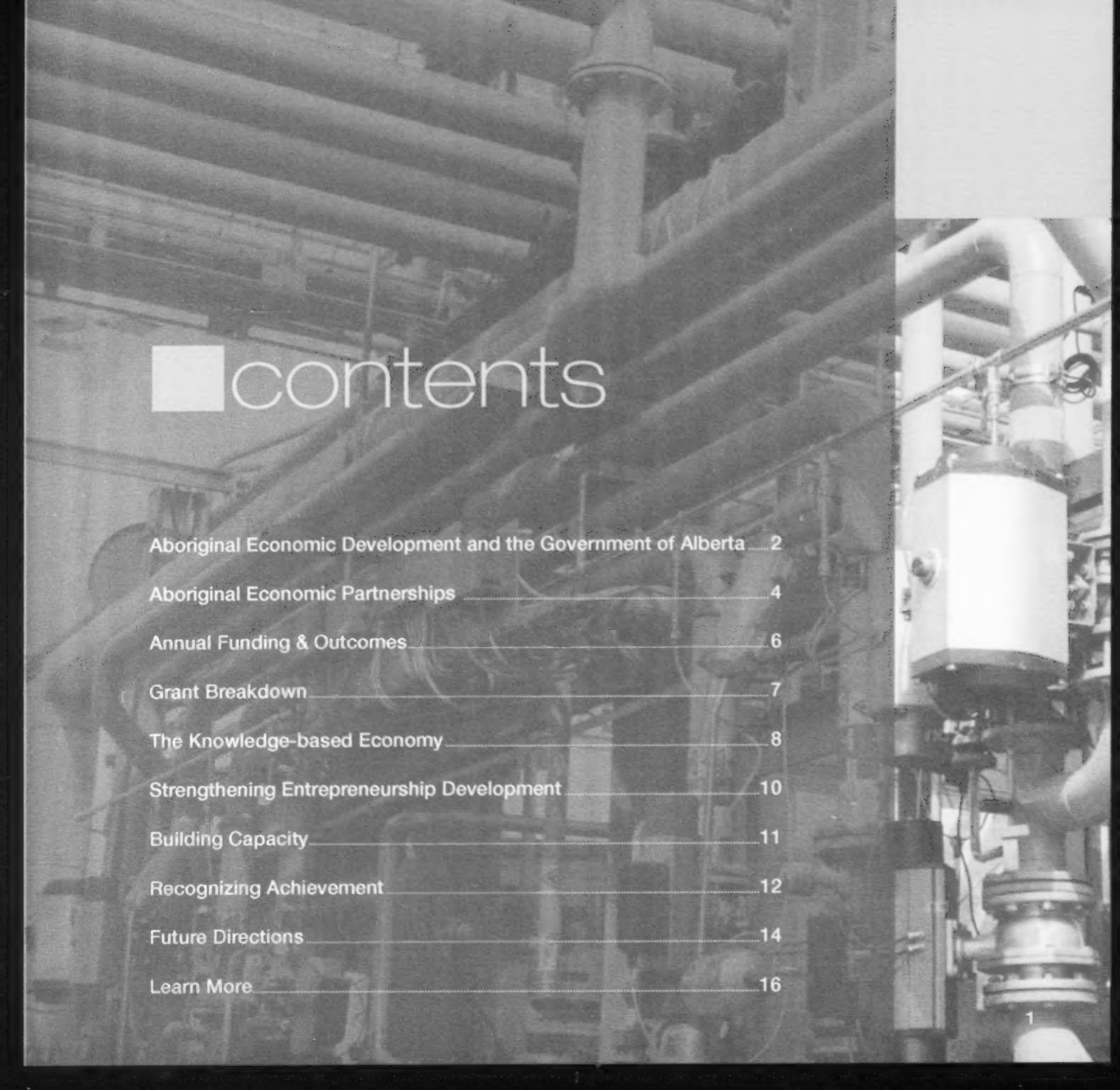
The 2010-11 year saw a focus on relationship-building, as the growth of Aboriginal businesses and communities in Alberta has created a need for economic development that goes beyond funding.

The Ministry has taken on an expanded role that includes coordinating multiple funding partners and connecting project applicants with resources, programs and services.

The Ministry continues to be an essential component of the Government of Alberta's commitment to enhancing Aboriginal participation in the province's economy. In partnership with the Ministry of Human Services, Aboriginal Relations provided a combined total of \$5.1 million dollars in 2010-11 to encourage industry partnerships, strengthen economic capacity and provide entrepreneurial support.

Our collaborative, results-based approach has led to positive economic benefits for Aboriginal people and communities, and we encourage you to read this document and visit our website to learn more about the Alberta government's ongoing support of Aboriginal economic development.

Honourable Robin Campbell
Minister, Aboriginal Relations



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Aboriginal Economic Development and the Government of Alberta

The Government of Alberta is committed to increasing the economic participation of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in Alberta's economy.

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations supports Aboriginal economic development by facilitating economic partnerships and capacity building among Aboriginal communities, industry and government. Initiatives include:

- Profiling Aboriginal economic development successes;
- Strengthening entrepreneurship;
- Continued support for community capacity building; and
- Promoting and supporting broader Aboriginal economic development initiatives in conjunction with other Ministries.



First Nations Economic Partnerships Initiative (FNEPI)

In 2005, flowing from the goals of Alberta's Aboriginal Policy Framework, and based on feedback from Aboriginal communities in the province, the Alberta Government developed the First Nations Economic Partnerships Initiative (FNEPI).

FNEPI was designed as a cross-ministry effort involving two Government of Alberta ministries responsible for seven inter-related funding programs:

- Aboriginal Relations delivers:
 - Strategic Economic Initiatives
 - Economic Capacity Building
 - Regional Partnerships Development
- Employment and Immigration (now Human Services) delivers:
 - Aboriginal Business Advisory Services
 - Aboriginal Community Development Services
 - Aboriginal Business Information and Resources
 - First Nations Labour Force Planning

FNEPI was designed to increase First Nations participation in the economy by:

- Supporting the development of effective partnerships between First Nations, industry, government and other stakeholders;
- Strengthening First Nations economic capacity; and
- Assisting in the development of a viable First Nations private sector.

In 2011, FNEPI extended its focus beyond on-reserve First Nation initiatives to include a more diverse range of communities, organizations and industry stakeholders. To reflect this expanded scope, the Alberta government approach to Aboriginal economic development is now called Aboriginal Economic Partnerships, or AEP, which is also the name of the operating branch within government.

Aboriginal Economic Partnerships

The Aboriginal Economic Partnerships (AEP) branch helps facilitate economic success with Aboriginal communities, businesses and individuals by providing access to business information, advisory services and award recognition. The branch also meets regularly with other ministries, governments and industry to encourage collaboration and partnerships between Aboriginal communities and businesses. Three funding programs remain core to the branch's operations:

Economic Capacity Building (ECB)

The Economic Capacity Building (ECB) program seeks to improve long-term economic development by supporting activities that strengthen the knowledge, skills and resource capabilities of Aboriginal communities and organizations.

ECB projects aim to strengthen economic capacity by building on existing resources to enhance human capital, policy development, governance, management and planning. Strategic planning and the development of practical knowledge and skills to work with industry remains a common theme.

Successful projects have included "Preparing to Contract with Industry" workshops for Aboriginal communities and assistance with governance structures to help Aboriginal communities take advantage of economic opportunities.

In 2010/11, the ECB program supported 19 projects.

Strategic Economic Initiatives (SEI)

The Strategic Economic Initiatives (SEI) program aims to support sustainable partnerships among Aboriginal communities, organizations, industry and other partners while promoting development and growth within the province.

The program helps create long-term agreements that result in tangible benefits for Aboriginal communities. SEI projects must have a regional focus, at least one partner, and must:

- Address community priorities;
- Demonstrate significant strategic value; and
- Contribute to an improved understanding of Aboriginal economic development.

In 2010/2011, the SEI program supported 12 projects.

Regional Partnerships Development (RPD)

The Regional Partnerships Development (RPD) program provides funds to tribal councils and unaffiliated First Nations for the hiring of a Regional Economic Partnership Coordinator (REPC). The role of the REPC is to facilitate and support partnerships between First Nations and industry and to pursue economic development opportunities for First Nations in their regions.

In 2010/2011, the RPD program supported the hiring of four Regional Economic Partnership Coordinators to work within their respective communities.

Cross Ministry Collaboration between Aboriginal Relations and Human Services

Aboriginal Economic Partnerships works closely with the Aboriginal Development branch of Human Services to support approximately 200 projects and initiatives province-wide.

In 2010/2011, this collaboration helped support communities, business and individuals achieve their goals in Alberta's diverse economic landscape by:

- Funding Alberta's Aboriginal Capital Corporations to provide business development support to Aboriginal entrepreneurs looking to start or expand a business; and
- Addressing the individual needs of Aboriginal communities and businesses through opportunity identification, feasibility assessments, business plan development and the sharing of best practices.

In addition, Aboriginal Economic Partnerships and Aboriginal Development have worked to support labour force development and employment and training programs specifically designed for First Nations, Métis and Inuit people.

Special Initiatives

Aboriginal Economic Partnerships continues to recognize the importance of Aboriginal women entrepreneurs and innovative partnerships by supporting two awards:

- Aboriginal Women Entrepreneur Award of Distinction
- Rewarding Partnerships Award

These awards highlight the outstanding contributions to the province's economy by individuals from Alberta's Aboriginal communities.

Annual Funding & Outcomes

In 2010/2011, the Government of Alberta invested \$5.1 million to encourage Aboriginal partnerships and economic participation.

Aboriginal Relations contributed \$2.2 million and Human Services contributed \$2.9 million towards this goal. This support resulted in:

- 19 new economic capacity building projects;
- Four Regional Economic Partnerships;
- 12 new strategic economic initiatives projects;
- 16 work plans and performance measures that address partnership development, job creation, job retention, business creation and expansion; and
- Three youth entrepreneurship camps and five symposiums for youth throughout the province.

Funds are distributed through Aboriginal Economic Partnerships' three core grant programs.



Grant Breakdown

Economic Capacity Building Grants	Amount
Aseniwuche Winewak Nation of Canada	30,000
Athabasca Tribal Council	15,000
Calgary Chamber of Commerce	40,000
Duncan's First Nation	35,000
Edmonton Chamber of Commerce	17,000
Fort McKay Métis Group Ltd	15,000
Horse Lake First Nation Industry Relations Corporation	25,000
Junior Achievement of Northern Alberta and Northwest Territories Society	40,000
Louis Bull First Nation	30,000
Maskwacis Employment Centre Society	50,000
Nakcowinewak Nation of Canada	50,000
National Indigenous Economic Education Fund	15,000
River Cree Development Corporation (Enoch Cree)	50,000
Seven Fires Developments Ltd	50,000
Seven Fires Developments Ltd	20,000
Sun & Moon Visionaries Aboriginal Artisan Society	10,000
Smith's Landing First Nation	20,000
Tallcree First Nation	25,000
Tribal Chiefs Ventures Inc.	80,000
19 ECB Projects Approved	617,000

Strategic Economic Initiatives Grants	Amount
Blood Tribe	63,100
Blood Tribe Agricultural Project (1991)	50,000
Chiniki First Nation	95,000
Duncan's First Nation	70,000
Horse Lake First Nation Industry Relations Corporation	70,000
Integrated Minerals Technologies	100,000
Little Red River Cree Nation	55,000
Nakoda Oil and Gas Inc.	50,000
O'Chiese First Nation	100,000
Saddle Lake Cree Nation	22,000
Sucker Creek First Nation	80,000
Treaty 7 Management Corporation	100,000
12 SEI Projects Approved	855,100

Regional Economic Partnerships	Amount
Athabasca Tribal Council	125,000
Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council	125,000
Smith's Landing First Nation	125,000
Western Cree Tribal Council	125,000
4 RPD Projects Approved	500,000

The Knowledge-based Economy

IGNITE Camps



Information and communications technologies (ICT) continue to grow in importance, and like other communities, Aboriginal communities need to enable students to acquire the 21st century skills necessary to participate in the global economy.

Thanks to strategic partnerships supported by AEP, Aboriginal communities are helping Aboriginal youth gain experience in the ICT fields through the IGNITE (Igniting Interest in Technology and Engineering) initiative.

The IGNITE concept stems from a 2007 partnership agreement between IBM Canada, the Government of Alberta; the Métis Nation of Alberta Association; the Treaty 7 Management Corporation; Alexander First Nation; Enoch Cree Nation; Fort McKay First Nation; Loon River First Nation; and the Elizabeth, Fishing Lake and Peavine Metis Settlements.

A science and technology equipment kit was provided by IBM to the Government of Alberta and was used to deliver four pilot IGNITE camps in Aboriginal classrooms across Alberta in 2010.

During the three-day camps, Aboriginal youth were introduced to a variety of careers in science, technology and engineering. Participants were given the opportunity to record empirical data using data harvest tools, build and program their own robots, create functional electrical snap circuit devices and program their own computer games. The overwhelming support for the camps by students, parents and educators highlights the success of the IGNITE model.

Building from this success, the IGNITE program will continue working with Aboriginal communities to help Aboriginal youth to stay in school and inspire their future career aspirations. This includes a train-the-trainer initiative which will enable communities to continue delivering the IGNITE camps.



Success Story: Strengthening Entrepreneurship Development

O'Chiese First Nation Business and Investment Centre

O'Chiese First Nation leveraged AEP support to create a business centre that caters to the start-up and training needs of the community and surrounding municipalities and organizations.

The initiative has resulted in business plans for:

- O'Chiese Gas Bar
- O'Chiese Truck stop
- O'Chiese Energy
- O'Chiese Sand, Gravel and Contracting
- Enterprise 2003 Holdings
- O'Chiese Safety Services
- O'Chiese Well Services



Success Story: Building Capacity

Calgary Chamber of Commerce Aboriginal Workforce Initiative

The Calgary Chamber of Commerce recognizes the economic potential of strengthening the relationship between Aboriginal and business communities in the Calgary region and beyond. To help facilitate these relationships, the Chamber launched the Aboriginal Business and Investment Policy and Event Series. The goal of the series is to inform policy, research, discussion and debate on key policy issues relating to Aboriginal business development, partnerships and investment.

With support from AEP, the initiative resulted in three key deliverables:

- A policy series which engaged the local, regional and provincial business communities in discussions on strategies to connect with Aboriginal communities for the purpose of developing economic opportunities and partnerships;
- Development of a business workbook for small and medium organizations who want to enhance economic opportunities and create partnerships with Aboriginal communities; and
- A policy paper and recommendations for improving Aboriginal business relations and economic outcomes.



Recognizing Achievement

Aboriginal Woman Entrepreneur Award of Distinction



The Aboriginal Woman Entrepreneur Award of Distinction recognizes the outstanding contributions of Aboriginal women entrepreneurs in Alberta. This award is presented annually by Aboriginal Relations during the Alberta Chambers of Commerce Alberta Business Awards of Distinction event.

The 2011 award was presented to Janice Larocque, President of Spirit Staffing and Consulting Inc. Founded in 1998, the staffing agency supports Aboriginal people in gaining equal access to employment opportunities. Since its inception, the company has been the recipient of numerous business awards and has expanded its operations to include offices in Calgary and Edmonton.

Rewarding Partnerships Award

The Rewarding Partnerships Award recognizes companies and Aboriginal partners that have demonstrated excellence in innovation, best practices in Aboriginal programs, sustainability and capacity building. The award is presented annually by Aboriginal Relations during the Alberta Chamber of Resources Annual Awards Banquet.

The 2011 award was presented to the Grande Prairie Aboriginal Student Job Shadowing Program. Comprising 12 Aboriginal, business, government, community, and educational organizations, the program offers Aboriginal high school students a seven-week summer job-shadow opportunity in a variety of fields. Throughout the program, students stay in residence at Grande Prairie Regional College and have the chance to live independently in an urban setting while experiencing college life. Participants also receive a stipend at the end of the program in recognition of their successful completion and hard work.

Program partners include:

- Grande Prairie Regional College
- Western Cree Tribal Council
- Métis Nation of Alberta
- Ainsworth Engineered Canada LP
- Alberta Human Services
- Alberta Health Services
- Aquaterra Utilities
- The City of Grande Prairie
- Devon Energy Corporation
- Northern Alberta Development Council
- Petrowest Energy Services
- Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd.

Since the program's launch in 2009, more than two dozen students have participated.



Future Directions

Alberta has one of the largest, youngest, and fastest-growing Aboriginal populations in Canada, and strengthening Aboriginal participation in the province's economy remains an important goal of the Government of Alberta.

Aboriginal Relations continues to build on the proven success of Aboriginal Economic Partnerships (AEP) and other programs by improving collaboration and competitiveness and by focusing on Aboriginal youth and urban Aboriginal populations.

This commitment includes:

- Continued collaboration with federal partners, industry, and other provincial government departments to increase Aboriginal economic development initiatives;
- Creating opportunities for dialogue and information sharing between industry, funders, economic development support services, and Aboriginal communities and organizations;
- Engaging Aboriginal Economic Development Officers and Aboriginal entrepreneurs across the province through economic capacity workshops and by facilitating partnerships with the Aboriginal Capital Corporations;
- The co-ordination of industry, educational institutions, and other government departments to encourage Aboriginal youth to stay in school for additional skills training; and
- Increasing the business capacity of First Nations and facilitating partnerships between industry and Aboriginal communities.

Métis Economic Development

The Government of Alberta recognizes the important contribution of Métis people to the development of the province through their entrepreneurship and economic activities.

The province has a number of arrangements with the Metis Settlements General Council (MSGC) and the Métis Nation of Alberta Association (MNAA), including the Alberta-MNAA Framework Agreement. The goal of the agreement is to enhance community and individual well-being for Métis people and increase their economic opportunities.

Also, in January 2011, the Alberta government, along with national and provincial Métis leaders and representatives from Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and the federal government, participated in the second Métis Economic Development Symposium in Vancouver. The event allowed Ministers and Métis leaders to discuss important issues relating to Métis economic development.



Learn More

For more information on the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations' Aboriginal economic partnership initiatives, please contact:



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